

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MEETING MINUTES
September 25, 2007**

Members Present: Morris, Ennis, Carroll, Endres, Harden, Kitson, Lank, Lardizzone, Magner, Newstadt, Spitzfaden, Thompson, Wasson and Webb

Members Excused: Timberman

Staff Present: Davila and Quinlan

Guests: Jan C. Scruggs, Esq., President and Anya Harris, Vice President (Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund), Shirley Price (Tower #3 Restoration), Keith Hill, Al Carter and Chris Portante (SOS), Ed Moczulski (LP Lo-DEL), Cam Yorkston and Ned Cooch (Friends of the Veterans Home), Bill McMullen (AF Sergeants Association), Burton Barr (NARFE), Bill Buss (First State Warrant Officers Assoc.), David Ramsey and Cullen Beaudin (Elks Lodge 2540)

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nations Flag.

Chairman opened the meeting by reporting that he is on his way to recovery from his accident and this would be his last meeting as Chairman. He announced that this meeting would be Commissioner Magner's last meeting; he has resigned from the Commission.

Commissioner Magner thanked everyone and stated that he hoped that if things changed with his MOPH job that he would be reconsidered again for the position. Commissioner Carroll highlighted a few of Commissioner Magner's contributions.

Mr. Scruggs and Ms. Harris provided a presentation on the Vietnam Veteran Wall; the efforts being put forth to make the Vietnam Veteran Memorial Center happen and outlined its intended purpose. Mr. Scruggs described the features that make this Memorial valuable and unique. He continued to explain the difficulties encountered in presenting the legislation and spoke about needing to raise money for the Memorial. Informational pamphlets were provided to those in attendance. A brief discussion followed the presentation.

Ms. Price presented her restoration project for Historical Tower #3, south of Dewey Beach. She spoke about its historical value and the need for monetary donations for the project. She requested that the Commission assist in distributing the foundation information. Discussion followed.

Mr. Hill requested that the Commission consider waving the 18-month waiting period and allow his mother to be placed in the Delaware Veterans Home with his father. Chairman Morris explained why the request could not be approved and the reason for the requirements.

Mr. Moczulski presented his concerns about the quality of care that Delaware incarcerated veterans receive. He explained what he perceived to be happening and how it affected the incarcerated veterans. He then asked if the Commission could somehow do something to assist in correcting the problem. Mr. Davila explained contributing issues that may also effect the situation. Discussion followed.

Mr. Yorkston introduced Mr. Cooch and explained his position with the Friends of the Veterans Home. Mr. Cooch elaborated on his background and thanked the Commission for allowing him to attend.

Mr. Barr reminded everyone that the legislators will reconvene in January 2008 and gave assurance that NARFE is already working on the issues. He also presented a booklet entitled "A Guide to Services for Older Delawareans" and suggested that all service officers obtain a copy.

Mr. Buss reported that the First State Warrant Officers Association has volunteered to build the gazebos at the Delaware Veterans Home and provided pamphlets.

MOTION BY HARDEN TO ACCEPT AUGUST COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES, SECONDED BY KITSON, MOTION CARRIED.

Due to time constraints, the Committee and Organizational Reports were not conducted during this meeting.

COMMISSION CONDUCTED ANNUAL ELECTIONS

Chairman Morris report that the votes were tabulated and verified by the Executive Director and the positions for the coming year are as follows: Chairman - Dick Ennis and Vice Chairman - Gary Morris.

Chairman Morris addressed the issue of a letter sent by Nancy Wells (Citizens for Better Care). He confirmed that the responding letter inviting her to present her issue before the Commission was returned as undeliverable. Commissioner Kitson reported that he looked into her said organization and that no such chapter exists in the State of Delaware. Chairman Morris indicated that the Secretary of State sent a revised copy of policies and procedures previously submitted for the Veterans Home. Commissioner Carroll indicated that the Committee was scheduled to meet to review these policies and procedures at the October meeting. He requested that the issue be tabled until the committee could review the documents. It was agreed that the issue would be revisited at the October Commission meeting after the committee had an opportunity to review the documents.

Chairman Morris reminded everyone that starting in October; the Commission meeting start time will be moved from 11:00 AM to 10:00 AM. Commissioner Carroll requested that the Steering Committee meetings not be scheduled to coincide with the Commission Meetings so that Commissioners are given the opportunity to attend. Chairman Morris departed for the Steering Committee meeting and Vice-Chairman Ennis took charge of the Commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Carroll read a letter from the Caesar Rodney Council requesting to donate either a decorated tree or wreath on behalf of the Delaware Hospice Festival of Trees for the Delaware Veterans Home. Commissioner Carroll motioned to accept the donation and the motion was accepted. Commissioner Carroll read an e-mail from Joan Muffler and her husband requested to donate a framed picture of "Iwo Jima, the First Flag". Commissioner Carroll motioned to accept the donation, without the brass plate, and the motion was accepted.

Commissioner Carroll then read a quality of life equipment expenditures request for the Delaware Veterans Home from the Delaware Veterans Home Fund. Items requested were a Camcruiser camcart, a combination Piano/organ (Yamaha Clavinova) and a seafoam green fixed awning. Each item was explained and discussed and the Commission voted to approve all three items.

Commissioner Carroll read a letter requesting that Carolyn H. Brown, a Korean War Veteran, be granted a residency waiver for admission to the Delaware Veterans Home without waiting the three years. Questions were discussed about the residency requirement of both Delaware and Virginia. It was agreed that this issue would be tabled for further review.

Vice-Chairman Ennis thanked the Commissioners for voting him in as Chairman and briefly outlined his future expectations.

Commissioner Harden discussed the upcoming Women Veterans Symposium II & Expo scheduled for April 26, 2008, at the Del Tech Terry Campus.

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Commissioner Spitzfaden inquired as to the status of his suggestion for a complaint box at the Delaware Veterans Home. He also revisited his previous suggestion to have a pavilion, without the pier, built at the Delaware Veterans Home and indicated that he has not heard anymore in reference to that suggestion. Vice-Chairman Ennis indicated that this needed to be discussed at the next Steering Committee Meeting.

MOTION BY SPITZFADEN TO PLACE A COMPLAINT BOX AT THE DELAWARE VETERANS HOME TO BE MONITORED BY THE COMMISSION, SECONDED BY WASSON, MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Carroll reported that to-date, the total in the Friends of the Delaware Veterans Home Fund is \$495,279 and the Veterans Home Fund is \$81,419.77.

Commissioner Newstadt reported that there is federal legislation in the works to have the Social Security numbers removed from military ID cards.

Commissioner Kitson reported that he went to the Welcome Home for the 198th (Delaware Army National Guard) and was the only Commissioner in attendance.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: **OCTOBER 23, 2007 (10:00 AM)**

LOCATION: **Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, DE**

ADJOURNED